

the Senate and complete the budget resolution by April 15, as required by law.

It is a very ambitious schedule, I know; and it is putting a lot of pressure on a lot of Members to make a lot of decisions in a very short period of time. But we feel very strongly that we need to get this budget done as quickly as possible.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman. One additional question, which this is sort of a follow-up on what I have just discussed. In the past, as the gentleman knows, we have had a number of substitutes which have been offered. Our Congressional Black Caucus has offered substitutes, our Blue Dog Caucus has offered substitutes, and I know the gentleman will be happy to hear that it is fully my expectation that the minority on the Committee on the Budget will have a Democratic alternative. I noted that the gentleman urges us to do that; and he and I share that view, and we are going to do that. But will we be allowed, Mr. Leader, to offer those substitutes as we have in the past as well as offer amendments that are requested?

I realize the gentleman cannot answer to all the amendments, because I do not know what amendments will be asked for; but will there be consideration of valid amendments that have broad-based support?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will further yield.

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. We want to follow precedent as to how we want to approach the debate on the budget, and certainly I do not want to make decisions for the Committee on Rules. They are more than capable of making their own decisions about how to bring the budget to the floor and what kind of debate we will have. But as the gentleman has already noted, we have always been open to alternatives to the majority's budget as laid out by the Committee on the Budget.

The Congressional Black Caucus has always had a substitute and others have had substitutes. I think this is because it is such an important issue, the budget of this Nation and its government; and we are hoping to have as open a debate as possible.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman very much for those comments.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, March 10, 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

— HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 10, that it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

— DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

— ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, what began as the "Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act" for those bravely serving around the world, a bill to ensure that their families would not be taxed on the small, \$6,000 death benefit payable to those families when someone is killed in conflict, that bill has now been totally perverted. The Republican leadership has desecrated the noble purpose of this bipartisan legislation.

In addition to the tax-free winnings for foreigners on horse races that was already in the bill, last night, in a truly shameful act, the House Republican leadership insisted on including in this military tax fairness bill an amnesty provision for corporate tax dodgers for the "ex-patriots" who have renounced America and planted their mailbox in the sands of Bermuda, even following the horrible attacks of September 11, in order to avoid paying their fair share of our military and other needs, the Republicans want to grant them amnesty.

While Americans are concerned with protecting their families, they need to know that the leadership of this House has launched a sneak attack to protect the corporate expatriates who have renounced America, and they do so in a misnamed bill, the "Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act."

— ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, we were to take up a bill today, which was H.R.

878, and the bill would have basically provided tax relief for our young men and women who are in the armed services, particularly those in the Persian Gulf at this time, 240,000 of them. It would have eliminated capital gains tax if and when they would sell their private residence. And if in the event that one or two of them would pass away or die, it would provide nontaxability of any survivor benefits that they would receive. This bill needs to be passed very quickly, because the President plans to go to war within the next 2 weeks or so. We are almost certain of that.

One of the problems is that last week, as the bill was in the House Committee on Ways and Means, my Republican colleagues added to the legislation a number of special interest tax breaks. Unfortunately, now it will slow the bill down. They took it off the floor of the House today because they could not even get enough votes on their side of the aisle to pass it. And, secondly, if it should pass, it will get bogged down in a House-Senate conference.

— ARMED FORCES TAX FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI).

Mr. MATSUI. I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, these tax breaks would provide for foreigners who place bets outside the United States on horse races a tax break. It would provide special tax breaks for the blend of diesel fuel and water. It will provide a special tax break for manufacturers of fishing tackle boxes. In all, \$300 million worth of tax breaks like these would have been provided. A wide variety of these tax breaks would be given to these different companies, many of whom have contributed to the colleagues who in fact have offered them.

I think this is tragic. We have a situation where our young men and women are put in harm's way. We want to give them some relief so that at least they can have some peace of mind when it comes to selling their house. And many will have to sell their homes. That is one of the reasons we gave this tax break, mainly because their income is going to go down, and many have families back home.

As a result of that, we are slowing this process down now. So I would just hope they would bring the bill back, stripping off these special tax provisions.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding to me.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) for his leadership and all his good work.